

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Mechanized Division Potsdam		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTI			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		PREPARED	4 March 1955 25X1
REFERENCES			25X1
PAGES	4	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
This is UNEVALUATED Information			
			25X1

1. Between 0800 and 1000 on 19 and 22 January 1955, 8 to 10 groups each of about 30 soldiers left the Oranienburg concentration camp and marched toward the training area on Lehnitz See. On 19 January, about 15 soldiers carrying carbines, rolled shelter halves, canteens and field bags were seen in the area south of the installation. There was no training activity in the installation on these two days. <sup>1</sup> 25X1
2. In the afternoon on 27 January and in the morning on 29 January, there was no training activity in the installation. Firing practice with carbines and training on small radio sets were held in the vicinity of the installation. A soldier carried a box at his belt; the box was about 15 x 15 x 15 cm and a red antenna about 75 cm long jutted out of it. The soldier wore a headphone and had a microphone in his hand. On 31 January, the installation was occupied by an estimated 800 KVP soldiers. A four-wheel armored reconnaissance car and a T-~~34~~/85 tank were seen in the installation on the same day. <sup>1</sup>
3. At 1000 on 17 January, 12 to 15 new three-axle tank trucks each with a two-axle tank trailer were seen in front of the concentration camp on Stalin Allee. They were escorted by about 40 KVP soldiers who wore black-bordered blue epaulets. The trucks had a capacity of an estimated 3,000 liters and the trailers of an estimated 2,000 liters.
4. In January and early February, the KVP section of the former concentration camp was occupied by an estimated 1,200 to 1,500 soldiers. On several days, six T-34 tanks were seen near the installation. Two of them practiced driving. Four other T-34 tanks daily trained with four BA-64s in the wooded area near Lehnitz. Groups of 20 to 30 soldiers were daily observed leaving and entering the installation. <sup>1</sup>
5. Eighteen 73-mm AA guns and four AA guns of about 25-mm were seen in the barracks yard during the day. Ten to 20 soldiers practiced on each gun. <sup>2</sup>

NoDEX

SECRET

-2-

25X1

25X1

6. From the night of 24 January to the afternoon of 25 January, the units in the concentration camp conducted a major exercise. All units left the installation on foot. Two field kitchens were the only vehicles observed. The soldiers were armed with carbines, submachine guns and one machine gun. Some soldiers carried portable radio sets. A radio station which was in operation at all times was erected in the installation. 3
7. On 22 January, a tank NCO said that four new tanks had arrived by rail on 21 January. The tanks were not new but overhauled. They had a weight of about 45 tons and the guns were of about 125 mm caliber. The type of the tanks was unknown to the units in Granienburg. 4
8. Between 23 and 25 January, an artillery unit changed its quarters in the installation.
9. On 2 February, exercises started which were to last three weeks. Troops were restricted to quarters for this period. The units left the installation between 0200 and 0300 and returned after 2 or 3 days. They were fed from field kitchens. On 2 February, all units appeared to have vacated the installation. The exercises were held in the Borgsdorf Forest Between Lehnitz and Borgsdorf. Tank, artillery and infantry units conducted firing practices. In the afternoon of 2 February, Soviet units were observed practicing in the Liebenwalde wooded area north of the Schmachtenhagen-Zehlendorf road. 3
10. [redacted] the entire regiment stationed in the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam was to hold an exercise at [redacted] Bornstedter Feld on 21 January. At 0900 on 21 January, 50 trucks each occupied by 18 soldiers, 7 SU-76 guns each with 6 soldiers, 24 open four or six-wheel armored personnel carriers each with 6 soldiers, 3 trucks each with 2 M-1943 heavy machine guns (Goryunov) and 8 soldiers, and 1 radio truck were assembled on Bornstedter Feld. All the soldiers wore blue service color. At 1000, the regiment divided and about 25 trucks, 3 SU-76 guns, 12 armored personnel carriers and 2 trucks with heavy machine guns moved toward Bornstedt. The crews of the other trucks occupied the trench positions with SP guns emplaced on each side. The armored personnel carriers were emplaced behind the trenches. 5 and 3
11. At 1400 on 25 January, 7 SU-76 guns, 12 three-axle armored personnel carriers and 40 trucks left the Ruinenberg Kaserne and were followed by 12 three-axle armored personnel carriers and 12 trucks half an hour later. On 28 January, there was no training activity in or near the installation. It appeared that the unit had not yet returned. 5 and 6
12. At 0900 on 4 February, 10 to 12 trucks each with 20 soldiers, 6 to 8 three-axle armored personnel carriers each with 6 to 8 soldiers and 4 or 5 SU-76 guns entered the kaserne; the column had come from the direction of the main railroad station. On 8 February, companies carrying rifles and submachine guns were seen marching to, and coming from, [redacted] Bornstedter Feld. About 40 to 50 trucks and 4 SU-76 guns were seen in the barracks yard. Three other SU-76 guns were seen in open sheds. 5
13. At 1000 on 21 January, seven 37-mm AA guns were seen in the barracks yards of the Garde du Corps Kaserne. About 24 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets received training on each gun. On 4 February, a total of 12 x 37-mm AA guns were seen in the barracks yards and in the former riding school. The installation was occupied by an estimated 350 soldiers. On 25 January, only a few trucks were seen in the open garages and gun sheds. It appeared that the unit was not in the installation. The same observation was made on 31 January and 1 February. 5 and 6
14. At 0900 on 20 January, 4 companies wearing blue service color and carrying rifles and submachine guns left the General Wever Kaserne and were followed by 4 trucks which towed 57-mm AF guns. At 0900 on 1 February, 12 SU-76 guns, 12 three-axle armored personnel carriers each occupied by six soldiers, 12 four-wheel BA-64 armored scout cars, 7 trucks with 57-mm AF guns each occupied by 9 soldiers, 40 to 45 trucks each occupied by 18 soldiers wearing blue service color, and 3 small trucks with red antennas left the kaserne and went toward Bornin. Three trucks carried baggage. At 1400 on 8 February, 10 trucks each occupied by 18 soldiers wearing blue service color, 5 SU-76 guns and 4 trucks with 57-mm AF guns entered the kaserne. 5 and 6

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-3-

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15. [Redacted] almost the entire personnel of the Potsdam post was at the Kliestz troop training grounds. The regiment from the Ruinenberg Kaserne had been in the camp at the Ferchels-Mahlitz grounds since about 25 January and returned to the kaserne as late as 5 February. The unit from the General Wever Kaserne left for Kliestz as late as 1 February and returned on 8 February. The AAA regiment from the Garde du Corps Kaserne also participated in the exercises. The students of the motor transport officer school were employed as platoon leaders. 6

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16. At 0250 on 17 January, a special train consisting of 13 coaches went from Berlin-Lichtenberg to Stendal via Schöenhausen on the Elbe River and returned in the evening. Between Lichtenberg and Schoenhausen, the train was occupied by about 800 KVP officers who allegedly came from Berlin and Strausberg. They were picked up by trucks in Schoenhausen and returned by trucks to the train in the evening. 7

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17. From 26 January to 14 February, the Ferchels-Mahlitz troop training grounds was still off limits. Since 5 February, the training activity at the grounds had decreased considerably. Heavy weapon firing was only occasionally heard during daytime. It was determined that Soviet units participated in the exercises. From 26 to 31 January, mortar firing practices were held daily. Ten to 15 mortars belonging to a Soviet unit were emplaced about 1.5 km east of the auxiliary airfield. Some trucks [Redacted]

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[Redacted] and three [Redacted]

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were seen there. About 200 KVP soldiers from the hutment [Redacted] with the mortars, which were apparently of 160 mm and 120 mm [Redacted] supervision of Soviet officers and NCOs. 5 and 6 and 8 [Redacted]

18. On 2 and 4 February, the bulk of the units left the troop training grounds. About 1,500 to 2,000 soldiers and about 100 trucks were loaded at the Gross Wudicke railroad station on each of these days. 6

1. [Redacted] Comment. The Oranienburg concentration camp is occupied by the medium tank regiment and the 1st Mecz Regt of the Mechanized Division Potsdam, a total estimated to be 2,200 soldiers. It is believed that at least elements of these regiments were at the Kliestz troop training grounds in late January.

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2. [Redacted] Comment. [Redacted] 57-mm AA guns in the Oranienburg concentration camp. If this information is confirmed, an independent AAA [Redacted] unit, the subordination of which is undetermined since the AAA regiment of the Mechanized Division Potsdam is stationed in Potsdam, must be assumed to be stationed there. Whether this AAA unit is connected with the AAA officer school in Oranienburg or not has not been determined. [Redacted]

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3. [Redacted] Comment. Information from the area of Corps Nord indicated that the KVP units concentrated on exercises at battalion level and march practices at regimental level in January as did the Soviet units. Winter firing practices by all branches of service were conducted at the post training grounds and at the Ferchels-Mahlitz [Redacted] and Jaegerbrueck training grounds. Joint exercises with Soviet units were also conducted in the area of Templin and Bad Koesen-Naumburg in addition to exercises at Ferchels-Mahlitz training grounds and in the area southeast of Oranienburg.

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4. [Redacted] Comment. An identification of the new tank cannot yet be made. According to available information, it may be a JS-2 or JS-3 tank or a JSU-122 SP gun.

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5. [Redacted] Comment. There is no doubt that only incomplete units were observed. The Ruinenberg Kaserne quarters the 1st Mecz Regt; the General Wever Kaserne the reconnaissance battalion, the signal battalion, division units and, possibly, also elements of the 1st Mecz Regt; the Garde du Corps Kaserne quarters the AAA regiment of Mecz Div Potsdam.

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SECRET

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-4-

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6. [Redacted] Comment. Information on the exercises near Klietz and at the Ferchels-Mahlitz troop training grounds was forwarded previously. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] It appears that winter firing by all weapons was conducted by units of Mecz Div Potsdam. The detachment of Soviet units as training units for the KVP is reported for the first time.

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7. [Redacted] Comment. It is believed that the officers mentioned were from the KVP Department with the Ministry of the Interior who witnessed the firing practices or a demonstration exercise near Klietz.

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8. [Redacted] Comment. The Soviet units may have been elements of the 65th Mort Brig of the 6th Arty Div from Rathenow which frequently left their post in units up to battalion strength for one-day exercises during the period mentioned.

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